

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243408

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 12668 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 12 OCT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12668

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA

REF: STATE 243260

1. SAW TAQLA FOR ONE-HALF HOUR THIS MORNING. HE HAD SPENT NIGHT AT BAABDA AND SEEN PRESIDENT BUT HAD NOT RPT NOT YET SEEN KARAME. HE WAS PROCEEDING DIRECTLY TO KARAME'S HOME WHEN I LEFT HIM. CONVEYAD MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTTEL. KARAME MOST APPRECIATIVE. THE ONLY POINT HE SAID HE WISHED TO RAISE AT THIS TIME WAS SOVIET REACTION TO THE LEBANESE SITUATION. HE SAID HE AND THE SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED THIS AND THE SECRETARY HAD INDICATED WE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO DISCUSS LEBANON WITH SOVIETS ASAP.

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2. TAQLA CONTINUED THAT WHEN IN PARIS YESTERDAY, LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO UN GHORRA HAD CALLED HIM TO REPORT CORRIDOR TALK THAT THERE WAS THOUGHT OF HAVING THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUE A STATEMENT BESPEAKING LEBANESE PEACE, QUIET, UNDERSTANDING, ETC. TAQLA REQUESTED OUR REACTION TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY WHETHER WE HAD ANY SPECIFIC IDEAS ON WHAT MIGHT BE INCLUDED AND WHEN SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT BE MADE. HE ASKED ME TO MAKE THIS INQUIRY URGENTLY AND SAID HE WOULD HOPE WE MIGHT HAVE A REPLY BY TOMORROW MORNING. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THIS WAS MOST DUBIOUS. TAQLA THEN SAID URGENCY ALSO DUE TO FACT THAT HE HAD ANOTHER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION FROM GHORRA LATE LAST NIGHT AFTER HE HAD ARRIVED IN BEIRUT IN WHICH GHORRA SAID HE UNDESTOOD THAT WASHINGTON AMBASSADORS OF FOUR PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD MET WITH DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS AND DISCUSSED THIS MATTER. HE SAID GHORRA WAS NOT CERTAIN THIS MEETING HAD OCCURRED AND TAQLA WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE COMMENT. DISCUSSING SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, TAQLA SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY WELCOME A STATEMENT BY THE BIG FIVE FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION THEREWITH WOULD BE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH. EVEN IF STATEMENT WERE RELATIVELY BANAL, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.

3. TAQLA SAID HE WOULD BE PROCEEDING DIRECTLY FROM OUR MEETING TO PRIMIN KARAME'S HOME. I, THEREFORE, REQUESTED HE ASCERTAIN AND INFORM ME OF CONVERSATION KARAME HAD YESTERDAY WITH SOVIET AMB SOLDATOV, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LEAVE. ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION RE ASAD TRIP TO MOSCOW. TAQLA SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

4. WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. TAQLA SAID HE PERSONALLY HOPED IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT OCCUR AS EARLY AS WEDNESDAY, OCT 15 FOR THIS WOULD NOT RPT NOT PERMIT NECESSARY PREPARATION. HE, HOWEVER, LIKED THE IDEA OF A SPECIAL MEETING ON THE LEBANON SEPARATE FROM REGU-
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LAR MEETING SCHEDULED OCT 20.
GODLEY UNQTE SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE243408
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:ALTHERTONJR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750355-0156
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751059/aaaacaub.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 243260
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA
TAGS: PFOR, ACOM, LE, US, (TAQLA, PHILIPPE)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006